

Having proved, by recorded facts and figures, that low duties (which the residue of the world levies high duties) are disastrous to our commerce and trade generally, our next purpose is to demonstrate that the existing tariff does not, upon the whole, raise the prices of goods, foreign or domestic.

Every one conversant with commercial and mercantile affairs knows that there exists a supreme law of trade, viz. that supply and demand regulate prices; that is to say, if the supply be greater than the demand, prices must be low; but, if the demand be greater than the supply, prices must be high. This axiom being admitted, let us, by way of illustration, take a glance at two articles.

The tariff of 1842 imposed (I use this word in compliment to some of my brother Southerners, who use it to give force to their opposition to the protective policy) additional duty on cotton bagging, but, so far from this article, either foreign or domestic, advancing in price, both declined materially. I know that a large quantity of foreign bagging (gunny cloth from Calcutta) purchased on speculation while the tariff of 1842 was under discussion in Congress, was sold several months after that bill became the law of the land at a loss of 30 per cent. Even now the prices of bagging and bale rope are fully one-third less than those prior to 1842. This is readily accounted for. In consequence of increased duties, the growers of hemp in the West extended their business, and now they, or those who manufacture it, not only supply the cotton-planters with bagging and bale rope at much reduced prices, but hemp has become an article of exportation.

The other article alluded to is sugar, upon which the tariff of 1842 imposed additional duty. But sugar did not advance; it declined, and during the year 1843 it was lower than ever known. Why did this great article (great, because used by every one) of consumption decline? Simply because the additional protective duty stimulated the production in Louisiana, whose crop has ever since been increasing, until it reached the enormous quantity of about 200,000 hogheads.

Having briefly stated facts relative to the two articles uppermost in my mind when I sat down to write, I will now say something in regard to the prices of cotton fabrics, the capital invested in this business being upwards of fifty millions of dollars, and I have no doubt it will be long reach one hundred millions. On this subject—most important—I frankly confess I was not fully posted; I therefore requested an honorable and real man of business of Boston to give me the facts with reference to prices of fabrics before and after the passage of the tariff bill of 1842. His reply is before me, and it appears that, in order to give me the most authentic information, he troubled himself to examine the sales' books (original record) of the most extensive commission-house in Boston, and he informs me that the wholesale prices of the principal articles manufactured at Lowell, &c. were on the 1st day of May for eleven years past, as follow:

	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.	1842.	1843.	1844.	1845.
Light sheetings....	10	11	10	9	10	7	6	5	7	6	5	7	6
Heavy sheetings....	12	13	12	10	11	8	7	6	8	7	6	8	7
Light shirtings....	7	8	8	6	7	5	4	3	5	4	3	5	4
Drillings.....	12	13	14	11	11	9	9	7	8	8	8	8	8

When I asked the information contained in this table, I had fears that it would not strengthen my position—that is to say, I apprehended that prices prior to the tariff of 1842 were a little lower than subsequent prices; but to my surprise the fact is directly the reverse. What will some of my Southern friends, who believe in Mr. McDuffie's theories, and the forty-ball calculation, (which, by the way, I never could understand,) say to this? But keep cool, gentlemen, whilst I, who in times long past figured on the same black-board with a few of you, "sun up." Gentlemen, talents, and eloquence have been instrumental in elevating some of you to high places and distinction—and I am proud of it, because of early associations; but you do not appear to understand the operation of the tariff—that is to say, you denounce the protective policy without investigating its effect upon prices.

Some of you on the floor of Congress furiously and indignantly cry out, "Oppression!" "The North plundering the South!" Now, I will not say that all this is *brutum fulmen*; but I will prove by figures, which do not lie, that there is no oppression, no plundering. In a previous number it was shown that the New England States, old Massachusetts especially, take annually large quantities of Southern products, and pay punctually, which is any thing but oppression. Let us now return to the table of prices, and see if the Lowell gentlemen do actually pick our pockets, in consequence of the duties imposed by the tariff of 1842 upon foreign articles of the same description. The table shows that the wholesale (Boston) prices of light sheetings averaged for three years prior to the passage of the existing tariff a fraction under 7 cents; and the average (on the 1st May) for the last three years is exactly 6 cents. Heavy sheetings averaged for the prior years 7½ cents, and for the last three years 7 cents. Light shirtings averaged for the prior years 5½ cents, and for the last three years 5 cents. Drillings averaged for the prior years a fraction over 8½ cents, and for the last three years a fraction under 8½ cents. Here, then, it is made palpable that the tariff of 1842 did not enhance the prices of domestic fabrics, but they were actually reduced! But let us hold on a little longer to the table of prices—a document which demonstrates that tariffs do not raise prices. Under the compromise act, we all know that there was a gradual reduction of duties on imports. What was the effect of this upon the articles now under consideration? The average price of light sheetings for eight years prior to 1842 was 9 cents; heavy sheetings 10½ cents; light shirtings 7 cents; drillings 11 cents. Truly, it is indeed stranger than fiction, and this is a fact illustrated by well-known facts in regard to the compromise act, which was hailed with joy by all because it probably saved the Union from dissolution. But did the South profit by it? I say no, because it is proved by figures that for the last eight years of its existence the average prices of the leading articles manufactured from cotton were at least twenty per cent. higher than the average prices for three years following the passage of the tariff of 1842—that is to say, *oppressive, plundering bill*, which, without any reason whatever, will, I fear, disturb the present tranquility and prosperity of the Confederacy. I fear it, because it is given out in the organ of the Administration that the Secretary of the Treasury is collecting information, with the view, I suppose, of presenting to the next Congress a tariff bill of his own handiwork. This is indeed considerate in the Secretary; but will he seek information from both the opponents and advocates of the protective policy? Being himself opposed to tariffs, will he not send out interrogatories chiefly to his own political friends, and will not their answers suit his purpose precisely? No doubt about it; and I, who do not know the honorable Secretary save by newspaper report, predict that his plan will approximate to free trade, which is *reputed* by the residue of the world.

Commercial and financial revolutions are ugly things, as were by figures established in a previous article; but fluctuating duties on imports are terrible. The importer, the manufacturer, the planter, farmer, and indeed all hands, want permanency, and it should be accorded to them; and, in that case, all hands will "go ahead," provided duties are so regulated as to prevent imports from exceeding exports. The anti-tariff men may prate morning, noon, and night about oppression, plunder, &c.; but if our exports keep pace with our imports—and by consequence prevent commercial and financial revolutions—the manufacturers of the North as well as the South will increase the spindles, and make them fly as fast as dirt. Competition begets low prices, and if my brother Southerners want clothing for themselves and dependants at still further reduced rates, they should build factories from Washington city to New Orleans, and their purpose will most unquestionably be fulfilled. "The North plundering the South!" If it be so, (which figures contradict,) why don't you, my friends, spin more of your own cotton? Why don't you, who have the raw material at your doors, manufacture large quantities (as they do at Lowell) of sheetings, shirtings, and drillings, and plunder the Yankees by making them pay high prices? If you possess their skill and ingenuity, you certainly have the advantage of them, for you would not be taxed with commission for purchasing cotton, freight, insurance, &c. Why don't you turn upon the Northern plunderers and plunder them? Retaliation is fair play. I do wish you would engage in this game, because it would cheapen prices of all descriptions of domestic fabrics, and then we Southerners would be independent of the North, to say nothing of the vast importance of tranquillizing the country by the permanency of the tariff. But I must not spin too long a yarn to-night. The subject of prices will be resumed.

## ON THE OREGON NEGOTIATION.

FROM THE NEW YORK COURIER AND ENQUIRER.

The negotiation at Washington respecting the Oregon territory is very silent, as it should be, but the Official is not so. In a recent number, the Union, referring to a paragraph from some other paper, importing that it might be an acceptable boundary and a satisfactory settlement of the question that the Columbia river should divide the territory of the two claiming parties, leaving to the British all north of that river, and reserving to the United States all south of it and north of forty-two degrees—the northern boundary of California—intimates that such a settlement cannot be accepted to by this country, because inconvenience might arise from a right in common to navigate the Columbia, and because the question of Texas and the interposition of England with Mexico for the recognition of the independence of that country, as a distinct sovereignty and without annexation, have introduced new elements into the question.

This last objection we do not mean now to meddle with; indeed we do not quite apprehend its bearing; for, undoubtedly England, as well as France, as well as the United States themselves, not long ago, had a perfect right, without occasioning offence to other nations, to endeavor to induce Mexico to acknowledge Texan independence, and to induce Texas, if she can, to prefer independence to annexation.

The other objection, *ad inconvientem*, in the common navigation of a river by contumacious nations, is a step backwards in the march of liberal principles, and moreover, in contradiction of grounds heretofore assumed by this country.

It was one of the great acts of progress in favor of the peaceful and harmonious intercommunication of nations, at the Congress of Vienna, which adjusted, after long wars, the claims and the quarrels of Europe, to introduce it into the code of nations as a settled law for the future that all peoples residing on the banks of rivers, from their source to their mouth, should have a common right of navigating such rivers. In virtue of this regulation and agreement, the Rhine, the Meuse, and the Danube are open to the different nations inhabiting their banks; and, in certain negotiations carried on by Mr. Adams, as Secretary of State to Mr. Monroe, respecting the British colonial trade, that eminent diplomatist asserted and maintained this doctrine in respect of the St. Lawrence. In the face of these pretensions about the St. Lawrence on our part, it may be difficult to take the opposite ground in respect to the Columbia river; but it may very well be, and that we submit as a suggestion worthy of consideration—if indeed it has not already occupied the thoughts of the Secretary of State—that the doctrine may be carried out on both sides of the continent, and that, by our agreeing to yield a common right of navigating the Columbia, we may acquire that of navigating the St. Lawrence, with a right of deposit and trade in both cases at some convenient depot at the mouth of each.

This would be obtaining an immediate and substantial benefit in exchange for a distant and possible that not probable inconvenience, and would, moreover, be adding the sanction of this Republic to a great measure of progress, which, having its origin on the old continent, may, under our auspices, become incorporated in the American code.

At any rate, there is, as it seems to us, matter worthy of grave reflection in this suggestion.

**THE GREAT FIRE AT QUEBEC.**—The Quebec papers give some further particulars of the conflagration at Quebec on the 28th ultimo, and of the proceedings of the citizens for the relief of the distressed. The number of persons burnt out, and left without a shelter, is about twelve thousand, constituting nearly a third part of the population of the city. The House of Assembly, the custom-house, school-houses, churches, and other public buildings, were appropriated as temporary places of refuge, and a soup and bread shop were established for the immediate relief of the destitute. A meeting of citizens was held on the 29th, at which committees were appointed to take measures for the relief of the sufferers, and to collect funds for the purpose. Up to the 30th, seventeen dead bodies had been found in the ruins.

The Quebec Mercury of Saturday last gives a list of the streets which had suffered from the fire, with the number of houses destroyed in each. There are fourteen streets in which no house remains standing. The number of houses burnt is 1,630—not including out-houses, stores, &c. to the number of 2,000. The loss of property is estimated at a million to a million and a half of pounds, or four to six millions of dollars. About five thousand persons were fed from the provision made by the committee for the relief of sufferers.

**THE SLAYER SENTENCED.**—The trial of PETER FLOWERY, late master of the schooner *Spyrite*, in the United States District Court of Boston, terminated on Saturday afternoon, when the jury rendered a verdict of *guilty*, but recommended the prisoner to the mercy of the Court.

**REDEMPTION OF BROKEN BANK NOTES.**—A notice from the Comptroller of the State of New York states his readiness to redeem *par* the outstanding circulating bills of the Commercial Bank of New York, the Bank of Buffalo, the Commercial Bank of Buffalo, the Commercial Bank of Oswego, the Clinton County Bank, the Watervliet Bank, and the Bank of Lyons. This is in consequence of an act passed at the recent session of the Legislature entitled "An act to provide for paying the debts of insolvent Safety Fund Banks."

In Jefferson county, Virginia, Nelson Hooper, from twenty-seven to thirty years of age, has been tried for the murder of William Brooks, in Morgan county, on the 17th February last. The defence made was "insanity." It was proved that the prisoner was addicted to drinking, frequently to excess. There seemed to have been little ground for a quarrel between the parties. The case occupied two days. On Wednesday night the whole matter was referred to the jury, who retired, and in about half an hour returned with the following verdict:

"We, the Jury, and the prisoner, Nelson Hooper, guilty of murder in the second degree, and we ascertain the term of his imprisonment in the public jail, or penitentiary house, in the city of Richmond, to be eighteen years."

**ANOTHER GAS WELL.**—Messrs. Robinson, Bibby, and Downard, on the property leased of J. C. McFarland, Esq., last week reached a large stream of gas, at the depth of four hundred and thirty feet. The stream is steady, of sufficient force to throw up the water fifty feet in the air, and in sufficient quantity to boil the water. They will turn it into the furnace and go to making salt next week.

Samuel Shrewsbury, Esq., higher up the river, a few weeks ago obtained an abundant stream both of water and gas. The stream is not steady; the water is jetted up at irregular intervals, resembling breathing.—*Kanawha Republician*.

## EDITORS' CORRESPONDENCE.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 9, 1845.

Proposing to say little to you except on a few subjects, which I desired to examine and understand, I must beg you not to look to me for anything. If, out of Art or Politics, I mention any thing, it will be but by accident. Something I may presently say on two strange public phenomena—the one of the city, the other of the State: I mean that utter failure of law which permits the frequent riots here; and the incredible flagitiousness of that system of pardons which Gov. FORTER has founded. Meantime, until better informed in those things of which I should desire to write you, (Art or Literature,) what can I do but to pursue some topics of our present foreign affairs, which seem to me not to have been very well elucidated by the public press of either side.

If, according to the Jacksonian notion, President POLK was, by his election, instructed to do the opposite of what Mr. CLAY would have done, he is in some particulars most observant of those instructions. In his selection of foreign agents, he appears to have been guided by a wise dread of the Gallatin and Pinkneys and Monroes and Adamases and Legares. Mr. EVERETT he has recalled, or is about to recall: Mr. BLACKFORD he has dismissed without even the civility of an official notice: Mr. HUGHES gives place to I know not what *bipes impudicus*, what unadvised birding of embassies; and Mr. WHEATON stands expecting his fate, like the last feather in a tame swan's wing, when all the rest have been plucked.

Nor can I say that the earnest which we have already had of "democratic" diplomacy gives any promise of a very piercing perspicacity, such as would endanger, violently, the secrets of Cabinets all over the world. Gen. MURPHY and Mr. SHANNON were veterans in Rutherford and Mabry that would not light on their new adjuncts to any thing that would greatly astonish the Metternichs and Guizots and Aberdeens, or that would have made the Talleyrands and Pozzo di Borgia stand aghast. On the whole, therefore, our men of the portfolio are such, whether of recent or older democratic choice, that I think the President may safely congratulate himself: not one such would Mr. CLAY have ever appointed.

This brings us to our French relations in this Texas question; where it is now evident that our Envoy and the Executive have grossly deceived themselves. From the first, it was perfectly clear that they were either the dupes of mere ministerial civilities on the part of Louis PHILIPPE and his Premier, or that they were attempting to impose upon our people for something solid such country professions. Certainly much was very suspiciously kept back; but it was nevertheless clear that all which Mr. KING communicated as having passed either between him and Majesty or Mons. Guizot, amounts to nothing more than some very polite expressions of good will towards us, of a wish to be agreeable to us on the Texas as on all other questions—perhaps to keep England in check if she was mentioned—and all sorts of other courtly nothings, said with a very obliging air, but [mark that, Mr. KING!] not a word of them *put on paper*.

Now, in diplomacy, or in any thing that is public and serious, who does not know that what is merely said, and is not to be left in any permanent and certain form, goes for nothing? I conclude, then, that the Public and the Administration should only have looked with suspicion upon these French professions. The care taken not to give them in any tangible shape marked them to me, from the first, as meant only to amuse. People of any capacity should long ago have taken care to force from the French Government, the moment such things were met, something unequivocal, and not have gone chucking home, to write despatches assuring our Government what an amiable person King Louis was, what a fine man his Minister, and how ready both were to see us help ourselves to just what liked us.

Nor do I think it less evident what the real policy of France is. Peace with England is one of the chief parts of the system of Louis PHILIPPE, and it is the feeling of all the monarchical and conservative part of France. It is the *Opposition* alone in that country that stir up any contrary notion; and this only because in it lies their hope of ousting the Ministry or pulling down the dynasty. Could THIERES or MOLE, aided by the Legation, upset GUIZOT, the new Ministry would soon find itself soothed by place into a more pacific humor, or forced to be presently driven out, when the King was ready for ridding himself of them. For Louis is his own Prime Minister.

This is not all: France by this time feels what a folly she committed when she fell upon Mexico some eight years back, and bombarded Vera Cruz. She drew from Mexico an indemnity, and she lost all her trade there. All has passed into the hands of England. Would France not, at present, gladly recover that trade, and by a friendly part towards Mexico, regain her old equality with England? Moreover, the commerce of Texas, if independent of us, is worth struggling for, or may soon become of value.

Whether, however, this Administration and the late have, on this matter, deceived themselves, or been very easily cajoled by France, I do not under-stand positively to say.

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 11, 1845.

Of the state of parties here, and of local politics, I hear something; but little that strikes me as of any certain consequence. There are those who tell me that both the great parties are visibly breaking up in this city and throughout the State: that the Whigs are disheartened, the Locofocos largely dissatisfied; Nativism on the spread. As to the first fact, I know no cause that should of a sudden make any man less a Whig than before. That party has alone, during late events, resisted the suicidal career into which the Annexationists would force the country. If there be any man who wishes to desert, only that he may join himself to the shame of this Texas business, the desertion of such a man would be a loss to be rejoiced over: I would part with him as gladly as I meet good people: I would furnish him with music to start with and a pair of shoes to carry him on his way after those to whom he properly belongs. He who would choose the present moment for turning Locofoco must be much of the taste of those who love the coarsest meat, but fondly abstain until it has time to grow as rank as possible.

On the contrary, I am persuaded that the Whigs see too well the difficulties and dissensions, as well as the present disgraces of their foes, to be willing to make themselves sudden partners either in the shame of Locofocoism or its scarambles, already bootless to so many. I think our friends will, before they abandon their cause or principles, wait for those of Jacobinism to look more instead of less seemingly than before. In a word, I persuade myself that no Whig heart is going to be turned violently to them, until they do some deed to command respect or to deserve an honest praise.

If the Whigs, then, seem fewer, it can only be because they look with gloom upon the present condition of things for the country, know all their own efforts useless, and therefore resign themselves to the present sway of the spoilsman.

That Locofocoism should, on the contrary, be losing its party tenacity, seems quite natural. There must, after all, in this peace-loving State, be many who are weary of the spoilsman.

\* I may, for any thing we know, so seem at Philadelphia; but we need not be more confident of any thing, than that the Whigs not only comprise now, as they did in the late Presidential Election, a decided majority of the freemen of the United States, but are as strong now in number as they have ever been at any time.—*Editors*.

who voted the Polk ticket and yet saw with horror the business of annexation voted by their Representatives. Others must be alarmed at the avowal in "the Union"—that paper which speaks for the President, if not in his very words—that the Secretary of the Treasury is collecting and preparing the data for a general reduction of the Tariff in its heavier-taxed articles; among which coal and iron are two of the chief. Others again must be sick of witnessing the open contempt of law and duty with which the present Administration has carried out the spoils-system; and others, finally, are still more disgusted at the non-application of that system to the Cabinet displacees—many more sorts that are likely to abandon the Locofocos than the Whigs.

As for Nativism, well inclined as I am towards it, I see not how a party can take any particular prevalence which has, thus far, signified itself only by the ill it has done and the confessed failure it has made. It has certainly put itself under bad leaders and a worse organization; but, most of all, it is confessed to me here now that the composition of the party itself is bad. Wanting, then, the reputation of success as well as that of prudence, of discipline, and of personal worth, I see not how they are suddenly to grow an ascendant party. Probably they are much nearer to becoming an obsolete one.

There is but one other matter of local politics which can just now exert much influence over parties; and this is the question of liquidating or not liquidating the interest of the State debt. On this subject, the Whigs appear to have acted with spirit and patriotism, and to have carried forward certain portions of the State to the offer, most honorable to them as citizens, of paying up their ensuing taxes in advance, in order that the next payment of interest may be met. Gov. SHUNK and his friends, on the contrary, seem to have met the public difficulties much less well.

The Government of the State, however, offers two shocking anomalies, in the mere enforcement of public order, that are fit to command every one's attention and make him ask, "Is this under one of the new philosophically constructed societies? Are we here within the peculiar empire of reason? Is it this that things work in one of the good LAFAYETTE'S 'model Governments'?"

I write at this moment within half an hour's walk of a large population, in a dependant borough of Philadelphia, though not within her municipal authorities, where broils and riots form a permanent state of things, where mobs are, so to speak, a permitted amusement, and where, as to any thing like a repressive exertion, the laws can only be considered as in a state of perpetual suspension.

The scenes of last year's bloodshed were only explosions, upon a greater scale, and in other quarters, of the violence which exists there (in the Kensington suburbs) at its own pleasure, and quite without any civil interference. There, factions of foreign origin ply the cudgel upon each other's wild pates; there, fishermen, as rude of hand as their women have ever been reputed of tongue, wield the stretcher and the boat-hook; there, firemen and hose companies kindle up wars upon each other fiercer than the wild element with which they deal; and there, animated by Hibernian example, the very women push in on to close quarters, wrap a four-pound stone in their aprons, and, running upon the adverse side, let drive with that weapon a blow that defies all "fending."

You will ask, in astonishment, if this be possible? Not only is the fact so, but of very easy explanation. There are magistrates there selected by the popular vote only: they are therefore demagogues alone. If they did their duty, they would never be re-elected. But, besides, for their executive officers they have constables also elective—demagogues of course, and who would of course never think of interfering with the sovereign while he is at his amusement of a *roue*, of breaking heads or laws. I presume you are satisfied that the state of things in Kensington is quite natural.

But now, from the lowest agent of the law, let us ascend to the highest: from constables to the Governor. I find that Gov. FORTER, during his lately ended term, gave pardons to about eight hundred convicted criminals, some of them condemned for the most atrocious crimes, committed under circumstances the most aggravated! In several cases, he has issued a pardon for an atrocious offence without even the decency of waiting for an investigation. In a word, he has held out a wholesale impunity for any offence that a man may choose to commit! Is it possible that, from an official conduct so abandoned, a universal license for crime shall not ensue?

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 12, 1845.

The night of that very day which I had set apart for a minute survey of the Gallery of the Pennsylvania Academy has witnessed the devastation of that fine collection. Guided by one of its directors, (himself an excellent artist, to whose judgment the Gallery owed many precious additions, to whose zeal it owed much of its prosperity,) I had in the morning examined with admiration and carefully noted all that was worthy of description in the several halls; and that very night, about 11 o'clock, on my way to witness again the last act of Leonora, I came suddenly, with a pang the severest, upon the conflagration, in which it seemed but too probable that many of the most beautiful objects on which I had lately dwelt had perished forever!

When I tell you that my own thoughts at once reverted, with a main solicitude, to a real and very fine *Marillo*, (the subject the Roman Daughter,) formerly in the possession of the too celebrated Prince of Peace Godoy, and purchased of the late Mr. Meade, who acquired it while Consul in Spain—to a charming and very perfect *Salvator Rosa*, (Mercury and Argus)—to a Ganyemed, a Lucrèce, and several other good *Guidos*—to *Allston's* Dead Man restored to life by touching the bones of Elisha, (the best, I fancy, of all American historical pictures)—and among the sculptures, to the beautiful little bronze group of Dirce, by that rare master *Benvenuto Cellini*, the fighting sculptor—two exquisite bacchantes, by *Ceracchi*—a majestic head of Napoleon, by *Canova*, of colossal size and prodigiously fine—and the astonishing group of the Battle of the Centaurs and Lapithe, modelled by *Lough*, upon the idea of Phidias's central composition of the Parthenon, a work of amazing vigor and beauty—it will be needless to tell you what had, in the entire collection, drawn my chief admiration. I could have heard with no violent displeasure of the destruction of *West's* huge and fearful Death on the Pale Horse; for I have never seen any thing of his that had to me the grace and sweetness of the finest Art; and I should not have been very deeply grieved to hear that, of the next gigantic picture there, *Haydon's* Christ entering Jerusalem, every thing had been destroyed, except that inimitable jacksass, so much beyond all the asses that ever were painted, and indeed so amazingly fine as to throw the Christ and every thing else of Haydon utterly into eclipse. That is *Landseer's*, done by him for Haydon; and was, it seems, so unfortunately good as to ruin all the rest of the piece, and procure for poor Haydon the epithet of Jackass Haydon. Yet his picture would, perhaps, have passed for a very fine one but for this unhappy perfection of the lowest object in the composition.

To-day I learn something of the extent of the loss, though much is yet unascertained. The *Marillo* is known to be utterly destroyed: the Napoleon of *Canova* is burnt to quicklime: nothing is known of the bacchantes of *Ceracchi*: there is only a hope that they may have been carried off to some neighboring house. *West's* Death is no doubt ruined. A fine Tuscan *Mosaic* (which I failed to look

at) was broken into four or five pieces, and is supposed difficult to restore: there were several (four) excellent pictures by *Angelica Kaufman*, which, from their position, aloft in the dome of the centre, can hardly have been saved: I hear nothing of *Benvenuto's* Dirce; and it is certain that almost the entire Statue Gallery has been utterly destroyed. The Directors have, however, instantly gone to work to make a catalogue of what has been rescued; and we shall thus speedily know precisely what Art among us has to mourn, out of this, much its richest repository in our country.

My notes will enable me, when the extent of the destruction shall thus have been verified, to proceed with a minute account, both of what is left and of what has perished. I may then go on to speak of such other productions of the brush or the chisel as I have had the time to examine here. There is one private collection, in particular, that greatly merits description, not only from the fineness of some of the pieces, but the munificent taste of the possessor, whose liberality as to those to whom genius may, in this country, look for that discriminating patronage which can alone enable it to vanquish early difficulties—obscurity and poverty.

## IMPORTANT TO NAVAL OFFICERS.

The following changes and modifications in the uniform prescribed for officers in the United States Navy are hereby authorized to take effect on the 1st of January, 1846:

Captains, commanders, and lieutenants, only, are to wear epaulettes, and every shoulder on each shoulder, over the shoulder strap; yet never without wings, when absent from the ship. The bullions of the epaulet shall be of silver gilt; those of captains and commanders to be in two rows, the outer row to be half an inch in diameter, and three inches long, and twenty in number; those of lieutenants three-eighths of an inch in diameter, and three inches long, in two rows, with a proportionate number in the outer row.

Straps of all epauletts shall be of navy gold lace, with a worked edge and crescent, according to the pattern. On the strap of each epaulet, a captain, commanding a squadron, and entitled to wear a broad pennant, shall wear a plain silver anchor and eagle, two inches long, and above the eagle a silver star, five-eighths of an inch in diameter; other captains the same, excepting the star; commanders the anchor only.

Every officer entitled to wear epauletts shall wear on each shoulder, above the shoulder strap of full and undress coats, a strap from three to four inches long, and from two-eighths to three-quarters of an inch wide, which shall be made as follows:

For captains and commanders, of blue cloth, with gold embroidery on each edge; for lieutenants, of navy gold lace. Captains who are authorized to wear a star on the strap of the epaulet, shall wear an embroidered star in the center of the shoulder strap; other captains, a plain silver eagle.

In summer or in tropical climates, commissioned officers and passed midshipmen may wear dark blue summer dress frock coats, of the same style and pattern as the frock coats at present allowed, with medium size buttons.

Passed midshipmen and lieutenants shall wear round their caps a band of navy gold lace one and a half inch wide, instead of the present anchor and star.

In summer or in tropical climates, officers, when in undress and without epauletts, may wear, on ship-board, white straw hats; the body of the hat to be six inches in height, and the rim three and a half inches wide, and above the rim a silver star, five-eighths of an inch in diameter; belts shall be of black glazed leather, one and a half inch wide, with silver, and a hook in one of the rings to suspend the sword; the mountings must be of yellow gilt. Belts shall be worn under the coat of full and undress uniforms.

Swords are always to be worn with uniform when absent from the ship on duty, or when on leave on foreign stations. Swords and belts presented to officers for public services may be worn in full dress instead of the regulation sword and belt.

GEORGE BANCROFT.

NAVY DEPARTMENT, JUNE 4, 1845.

## THE TALE TOLD.

We have two little paragraphs which show how Indian difficulties begin, and who is at fault in creating them. We copy the following from the Cherokee Advocate:

"We are informed by a gentleman just from Mayville, Arkansas, that a foul murder was perpetrated in that village on the night of the 10th instant by some unknown assassin. The name of the murdered man is E. George, a Cherokee. He deceased, in company with some other Cherokees, had gone to Mayville on Saturday, says our informant, and there got into a drunken frolic, and is supposed to have been in a state of intoxication at the time he received the fatal blow."

"Nothing seems to have been known of the fate of this unfortunate man until the next morning (Sunday), when his lifeless body was discovered lying in one of the streets of that ill-fated village, with two or three stabs in his back and side, penetrating to the hollow, and not far from the whiskey shop from whence he was drunk last evening, about ten o'clock, and in a wagon. He awakened Hall, who was then in bed, and told him that he had brought some money in keys from Detroit for the bank; also, that before reaching the place he had lost one of the keys, and proposing to leave the two with him in the bank, wanted Hall to go and help him find the one that was lost. Hall went with him, and on turning from the spot without finding any key he was shot in the back by a revolving pistol. The affair, however, was treated as an accident. Before reaching home Wells fired again, and the ball lodged in Mr. Hall's neck near the windpipe. Hall is not expected to live. Wells is in custody."

George Wells is a son of the Rev. Mr. Wells, formerly pastor of the Presbyterian church in this city, but now chaplain of the military post at Prairie du Chien. He left this city on Wednesday morning, with two keys in his wagon, which were obtained by him from the bank. He was shot on Friday to make arrangements for business. He had remarked to the same person several weeks since, that an uncle at the East had promised to lend him seven or eight thousand dollars. The same story he told to several other acquaintances. He has also within a short time made propositions for the purchase of several establishments in the city, and among others the Michigan Exchange. At the same time, however, he was borrowing small sums of money of his friends. These facts seem to show a long premeditation of his murderous act.

**WALKING.**—On the utility of bodily exercise as a preservative of health, a writer in a London periodical lays it down as positive that "walking is the most perfect exercise for the human body; every artery, from the heart to the extremities, propels the blood quicker and more equally in walking than in any other exercise. The blood is drawn from the head and upper parts, where it is most slow and languid, and is circulated with rapidity to every part."

PHILADELPHIA, JUNE 9.

**ANOTHER FIGHT.**—Early yesterday morning a most savage row occurred between the Fairmount and Good Will Engine Companies. The apparatus of the Fairmount Company was totally destroyed by being thrown down a precipice at the Schuylkill. So the story comes to us. It is added that a man was killed by being hit on the face and head with a brick. How many were wounded we know not. It is well for the credit of Philadelphia "proper" to state that this outrage did not take place within the chartered limits of the city. The men engaged do not belong to the city, and the city is not responsible for the proceeding. But the district corporation in which this and similar riots have occurred is responsible.

The time has come when we believe no respectable and sensible man in the community will longer tolerate the policy of abolishing the voluntary fire departments of the city, and of substituting the fire departments of the city in their stead. They are in all senses a monstrous nuisance. So often have we urged the substitution of a paid fire police, that we need not again go over the ground.—*North American*.

## TO THE EDITORS.

WASHINGTON, JUNE 3, 1845.

GENTLEMEN: Have the kindness to permit me to make the subjoined extract from your paper of this morning a text to a few remarks:

"The exciting topic of the Jesuits has occupied the attention of the Chamber of Deputies. It originated with M. THIERS, who described the vicissitudes of the order of Jesuits, who experienced since its foundation in the times of condemnation in France in the 18th century, and the measures which had induced the Pope to pronounce the dissolution of a community that Frederick the Great alone in all Europe did not consider dangerous."

Why did Frederick stand alone amongst his contemporary monarchs on a question which, at the time, to a greater or less degree, excited interest over all Western Europe